

June 12, 2003

**NORTH DAKOTA CONSUMERS CAN REGISTER
ON STATE'S DO NOT CALL LIST
Pre-registration begins today**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem unveiled North Dakota's Do Not Call website in a news conference today. Consumers who want to reduce the amount of telemarketing calls can pre-register on North Dakota's list online at www.ag.state.nd.us.

Concerned over growing complaints about telemarketers and the increasing number of elderly victims of telemarketing fraud, in December 2002, Stenehjem proposed "Do Not Call" legislation for consideration during the legislative session.

SB 2255, sponsored by Senators Jack Traynor, Karen Krebsbach and Elroy Lindaas, and Representatives John Warner, Kathy Hawken and Jim Kasper, gives North Dakota consumers the ability to decide if they want telemarketing calls.

Although a national list will be available through the FTC beginning next month, the federal legislation has numerous exceptions that will permit calls from banks, insurance companies and interstate carriers such as telecommunication companies soliciting long distance services.

"I am pleased that North Dakota's law does not contain these loopholes, and I know our consumers are anxiously awaiting implementation of the North Dakota "Do Not Call" list," said Stenehjem. "We have been working closely with the FTC. As a result, any North Dakota consumer who pre-registers on the state's list will be automatically registered on the FTC list when the FTC is ready," Stenehjem continued. "Consumers will only have to register once to be on both lists, but by registering on North Dakota's list, consumers are protected by a law with far fewer exceptions."

Under North Dakota's law, which takes effect on August 1st:

- Telemarketers cannot call anyone who has signed up on the "do not call" list.
- Even if a number is not on the list, telemarketers can only call between 8:00 am and 9:00 pm local time, cannot block a subscriber's caller-ID service and cannot use automated or pre-recorded messages.
- Telemarketers have to update their list at least once every 90 days. A telemarketer who calls a number on the list more than 90 days after that number was registered is violating the law.

Even after registering, consumers may still receive certain calls allowed by law, for example:

- Calls from a person or business that has established a business relationship during the past 2 years.
- Calls by charitable organizations when caller is a volunteer or employee of that organization.
- Calls that solicit the expression of ideas, opinions or votes.

- Calls by political parties, organizations or candidates.

“North Dakota’s Do Not Call law gives consumers control of the calls they receive,” said Stenehjem.

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